

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 226210

15
ORIGIN CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-06 AGR-05 AGRE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /034 R

DRAFTED BY CU/EE:JMJOYCE:BJE
APPROVED BY CU/EE:YRICHMOND
EUR/SOV:JWILKINSON
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
USIA/IEU:SDEMITZ, CU:CCHAPMAN, USDA/FAS
----- 095834

R 132200Z SEP 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 226210

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, EAGR, UR

SUBJECT: 4-H YOUNG AGRICULTURAL SPECIALIST EXCHANGE WITH
USSR

1. SUMMARY. U.S. 4-H AGRICULTURAL SPECIALISTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE SUMMER EXCHANGE WITH THE SOVIET MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE CAME AWAY FROM THE USSR DISAPPOINTED IN SOVIET IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM, BUT CONVINCED THAT THE PROGRAM WAS NEVERTHELESS WORTHWHILE AND SHOULD BE CONTINUED. SOVIET EMBASSY REPS HERE ARE DISAPPOINTED OVER U.S. MEDIA TREATMENT OF THE EXCHANGE, WHICH EMPHASIZES FINDINGS BY OUR 4-H'ERS THAT SOVIET AGRICULTURE IS INEFFICIENT, BUT SOVIETS ARE EVEN MORE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT CONTINUING OR EVEN EXPANDING THE PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

2. THE NATIONAL 4-H CENTER IN WASHINGTON SPONSORED A NEWS CONFERENCE SEPT 9 FOR THE 15 U.S. AND 15 SOVIET PARTICI-
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 226210

PANTS IN THIS SUMMER'S 12-WEEK 4-H MINAG EXCHANGE. AFTER

THE CONFERENCE U.S. PARTICIPANTS GAVE DEPTOFFS A FRANK ASSESSMENT OF THEIR STAY IN THE USSR. THEY REPORTED THAT IN GENERAL THEY HAD BEEN KEPT QUITE ISOLATED FROM THEIR SOVIET COUNTERPARTS DURING NON-WORK HOURS, THOUGH THEY HAD BEEN GIVEN FULL SCHEDULES WHICH PLACED THEM SHOULDER TO

SHOULDER WITH THEIR HOSTS DURING WORKING HOURS. THEY WERE HOUSED TOGETHER IN SPECIAL HOTELS OR HOSTELS, AND EVEN GIVEN THEIR MEALS APART FROM THEIR SOVIET HOSTS. IN REPLY TO PRESSURE BY THE GROUP THE SOVIETS DID FINALLY ARRANGE FOR TOKEN OVERNIGHT STAYS FOR SEVERAL OF THE GROUP WITH SOVIET FAMILIES. THE GROUP WORKED ON TWO COLLECTIVE AND TWO STATE FARMS IN BELORUSSIA BUT WERE ALLOWED TO VISIT ONLY ONE OTHER FARM, DESPITE THEIR REQUEST TO BE GIVEN A BETTER OVERVIEW OF SOVIET AGRICULTURE. MOST U.S. PARTICIPANTS WE TALKED TO WERE NEVERTHELESS POSITIVE ABOUT THE PROGRAM, AND BELIEVED THAT IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS THE SOVIETS WILL GRADUALLY EASE RESTRICTIONS WHICH PREVENTED THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM FROM BEING THE FULL SUCCESS IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

3. EMBASSY SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THE U.S. MEDIA HAS REPORTED ON THE 4-H'ERS' COMMENTS ON THEIR STAY IN THE SOVIET UNION, EMPHASIZING THEIR REPORTS ON SOVIET AGRICULTURAL INEFFICIENCY (SEE U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, SEPT 13). THE SOVIET EMBASSY AFFECTS GREAT DISPLEASURE OVER THIS TREATMENT, BUT REMAINS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE PROGRAM. AGRICULTURAL COUNSELOR GAVVA SPOKE TO DEPTOFFS ABOUT EXPANDING THE PRESENT PROGRAM BEYOND THE 4-H MINAG CONTEXT TO INCLUDE 20-DAY TOURS BY BUS OF GROUPS OF UP TO 35 FARMERS THROUGH AREAS OF SPEICAL AGRICULTURAL INTEREST. HE OFFERED EITHER THE MINAG OR MEZHKOLKHOZSTROY AS THE HOST IN THE SOVIET UNION, AND SAID THAT THE SOVIET ORGANIZATION WOULD PICK UP ALL INTERNAL COSTS. HE HAS ALSO INFORMALLY PROPOSED A SEPARATE EXCHANGE OF AGRICULTURE STUDENTS SIMILAR TO THE IREX GRADUATE STUDENT EXCHANGE.

4. CU/EE BELIEVES THE 4-H PROGRAM IS A GOOD RETURN ON A MODEST CU INVESTMENT AND OFFERS THE PROMISE OF BECOMING A VERY GOOD PROGRAM IF GIVEN THE CHANCE TO MATURE. WE WERE VERY IMPRESSED WITH THE QUALITY OF THE U.S. PARTICIPANTS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 226210

MANY OF WHOM DEVELOPED A WORKING CAPABILITY IN RUSSIAN LANGUAGE DURING THEIR STAY. WE BELIEVE THE 4-H ORGANIZATION WILL FAIRLY QUICKLY LEARN TO COPE WITH SOVIET NEGOTIATING AND PROCEDURAL ECCENTRICITIES AND WILL BE SEEKING MORE EQUITABLE TREATMENT IN THE USSR. WE WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE THEM COUNSEL IN THIS REGARD, AND WILL IMPRESS UPON THEM THE NEED FOR FIRMNESS IN INSISTING THAT THE U.S. PARTICIPANTS BE ALLOWED GREATER CONTACT WITH SOVIET HOSTS

AND THAT THE PROGRAMS IN U.S. AND USSR BE CONDUCTED ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS.

5. GAVVA'S SUGGESTION ON AN EXPANDED AGRICULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM MAY BE UNWORKABLE AS PROPOSED, BUT IT SERVES TO POINT UP HIS STRONG INTEREST IN EXPANDING AGRICULTURAL CONTACTS. WE WILL BE TALKING WITH HIM, AND WITH THE

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, IN COMING WEEKS IN AN EFFORT TO CAPITALIZE ON HIS ENTHUSIASM. WE HAVE NO PLANS TO FUND THE BUS TOURS HE HAS PROPOSED.

6. SOVIET PARTICIPANTS IN THE EXCHANGE ALSO APPEAR TO HAVE BENEFITED FROM THEIR VISIT HERE. AS EXPECTED, THEY APPEARED CONSIDERABLY MORE RELAXED AT THE END OF VISIT THAN ON THEIR ARRIVAL, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE UNDERSTANDABLY RETICENT ABOUT SHOWING TOO MUCH ENTHUSIASM.

7. INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER (IH) WAS THE MAJOR FUNDER OF THE PROGRAM WITH A GRANT OF DOLS 125,000 AND THEIR TOP BRASS WAS IN EVIDENCE AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE AND DINNER HOSTED BY THEM THAT EVENING FOR THE TWO DELEGATIONS. IH OFFICIALS APPEARED HIGHLY PLEASED WITH THE PROGRAM AND IT APPEARS THEY WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT IT. AS EMBASSY AWARE, CU/EE PROVIDED A GRANT OF DOLS 22,000 TO FUND INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND OTHER COSTS OF THE US PARTICIPANTS.

8. IN SUMMARY WE BELIEVE CU GRANT WAS VERY USEFUL IN HELPING DEVELOP A NEW EXCHANGE IN A FIELD OF HIGH INTEREST TO BOTH COUNTRIES. U.S. AND SOVIET PARTICIPANTS WERE IN THEIR TWENTIES AND HAVE ALL CHOSEN CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE. THE AMERICANS WERE EITHER GRADUATE STUDENTS UNDERGRADUATES IN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES, OR ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 226210

TURE. THE SOVIETS, ALTHOUGH IN THE SAME AGE GROUP, WERE GRADUATE STUDENTS, RESEARCHERS, OR PROFESSIONALS IN AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES. ALL CAME AWAY WITH A SOLID APPRECIATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL CAPABILITIES AND PROBLEMS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME U.S. AGRICULTURALISTS HAD HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO RESIDE AND WORK ON SOVIET FARMS, AT LEAST IN POST-WAR PERIOD. SOME OF THEM MAY CONTINUE THEIR INTEREST IN SOVIET AGRICULTURE AND THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE AND BECOME CANDIDATES FOR OTHER EXCHANGE PROGRAMS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. CU IS EXPECTING A 4-H REQUEST FOR A GRANT FOR NEXT YEAR'S PROGRAM AND IS INCLINED TO RESPOND POSITIVELY. EMBASSY VIEWS ARE REQUESTED.

9. 4-H PRESS KIT BEING POUCHED. ROBINSON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURE, VISITS, CONSULTANTS, CULTURAL EXCHANGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE226210
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JMJOYCE:BJE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760345-1214
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760965/aaaacdwo.tel
Line Count: 169
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 4-H YOUNG AGRICULTURAL SPECIALIST EXCHANGE WITH USSR
TAGS: OEXC, EAGR, SCUL, UR, US, 4-H
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006